**Surveying the field of psychology on the APA web site** (23 points total)

This assignment requires that you have the knowledge from the Week 1 assignments about peer-reviewed research journals (on ProQuest) and APA format.

**Learning outcomes for this assignment:**

1. Develop knowledge of the breadth and practical usefulness of the discipline of psychology by exploring the American Psychological Association web site.

2. Differentiate between mass-media publications and peer-reviewed research journals.

3. Compose and APA formatted reference for a peer-reviewed journal article.

4. Describe psychology as a science

This assignment directs your attention to several things that are necessary for you to master to do well in this General Psychology course including discerning the difference between academic research articles and writing for the public; composing APA formatted references; and developing awareness of the range of topics that psychology studies. Submit your response to the Week 2 Discussion Forum in one message, not one message for each article. Choosing to find a short-cut on this assignment (e.g. using a friend’s work or copying work from those who have posted before you) will only hamper you later because you will not have learned what you need to know about peer-reviewed journal articles and APA formatted references. An instructor can point students to the resources needed to master a subject, but cannot coerce a student to learn from it. You have to want to learn what this assignment illustrates about psychology for it to have any benefit for you. I want you to take advantage of this opportunity that you have paid dearly to have.

In this assignment we will look at the American Psychological Association web site and sample articles in APA publications on the web site. We will be able to compare articles from a professional publication (the Monitor on Psychology) with those from peer-reviewed academic research journals. Following the steps of this assignment below, I have listed several sample issues of the Monitor and of the journals to assist you in finding some articles of interest.

Do the following steps in order before composing your response to this assignment and posting it in the Discussion folder (see left frame in Blackboard) for Week 1. Respond to each other’s messages as you wish. You will earn the 20 points for a well-composed response with good spelling and grammar that addresses the following components.

This following sources describe the difference between mass media publications and scholarly peer-reviewed publications which are at the heart of the scientific research endeavor for judging the value of research and disseminating the information. The web sites liinked here also describe the scholarly peer-review process and articles.

* North Carolina State University's library produced this video that provides a 5 minute description of the scholarly research journal peer-review process. It a quick and accurate way to learn about it:<http://www.lib.ncsu.edu/tutorials/pr/>
* Northwest Missouri State University Library has a clear and brief listing of the structure of a peer-reviewed research article like the ones you need to use for this Exploring Psychology assignment:<http://www.nwmissouri.edu/Library/courses/hes/resart.htm>
* The Cornell University Library web site provides a clear and brief description of the difference between scholarly journals and various types of magazines:<http://www.library.cornell.edu/olinuris/ref/research/skill20.html#news>

I recorded two 5 min Jing screen-capture videos describing this assignment. You are not required to view them but it may be of help for those who find the written assignment to be confusing. Jing videos take a few moments to load after clicking on the link. When you click on a link, it may seem that nothing is happening and you are looking a blank screen, but be patient for 30 seconds or so and the video player will eventually appear.

This 1st video describes the American Psychological Association web site and demonstrates locating articles in the psychology news magazine *Monitor on Psychology.*

<http://www.screencast.com/users/briesenb/folders/Exploring%20Psychology%20on%20APA%20site/media/63f144ae-f8c6-4c4b-870d-b63472339be1>

This 2nd Jing video describes the APA peer-reviewed academic research journals and the process for locating a free article to use in this assignment:

<http://www.screencast.com/users/briesenb/folders/Exploring%20Psychology%20on%20APA%20site/media/7978b6b5-39bf-4518-a64c-77eb252b4192>

**1. Go to the American Psychological Association web site** at: [http://www.apa.org](http://www.apa.org/)

Sample a few links on the homepage to get a idea of the APA organization and the psychology field. The “Students” area (link in lower left frame) has information of special interest to those of us who are considering majoring in psychology.

Articles with the term "meta-analysis" in the title of subtitle are very informative about a topic and will usually not have much statistical and research jargon. You will probably be able to read the entire article and understand most of it. They are organized differently from the above description, and are usually longer than most other journal articles, but relatively easier to understand.

**2. On the home page’s top bar next to the Search window, click on the link “Publications”. Click on the the "Magazines and Newsletters" Link, then select “Monitor on Psychology”.** This is a monthly publication of the APA sent to all members. Among other components it summarizes current research on various topics each month. Note that you access “Previous Issues” in the left column below the Table of Contents link for the current issue. You will get an idea of the range of topics in psychology by surveying a few issues. To speed you perusal, I have listed some topics from each issue for the last three years, listed at the bottom of this assignment page. **Select one article from each of two different Monitor issues** according to what interests you. Read the articles, summarize them in 100-200 words or so, and include your summary in your reply to post for us all to read. Clearly identify the month, year, and article title. **(3 points each = 6 points total).**

**3. Go back to the “Publications” web page, look down the column and click on “Journals”. After going to the journals home page, look in the left frame and click on "By title".** You will see all the APA journals listed in alphabetical order. Some have free-sample full-text articles. I have listed several journals below this assignment that usually have free sample articles available on the web site. Scan one of the peer-reviewed journal articles of your choice. **Select a full article, not just an abstract.** Not every journal listed in the web site offers sample articles. I have listed some journals below with sample full articles that seem to fit this assignment. Summarize the full article you chose in 200-300 words. Do not worry about statistical analyses and professional research terminology that you do not understand. You can get the main ideas of what was studied, how it was studied and what was found by reading the first and last sections of most articles. The first section describes the issue to be researched in the article and the literature review of what is known currently. The last section is usually titled “Discussion” or “Conclusion” and summarizes what was learned in the current research endeavor. The middle sections are where the language becomes very laden with research/statistical methods & professional jargon. We do not need to understand or even read these sections for our purposes here. You will understand those sections eventually if you major in psychology. However, browsing through a couple of articles "Methods" and "Results" sections will illustrate the degree of analysis used in psychological research. Post your summary of the article you select with your response. **(9 points)**

**4. Post an APA formatted reference for the peer-reviewed academic research journal article you summarized**. Do NOT do a reference for either of the Monitor articles. See "Orientation Activities" in Week 1 for APA format guidelines. For over 3500 examples of APA formatted references, see your textbook’s Reference section. You may also go to UW’s Online Writing Center at:<http://depts.washington.edu/psywc/handouts/pdf/citations.pdf>.

Purdue University's Online Writing Center (OWL) has a wealth of easy to understand assistance for writing, including using APA format. It is especially useful for citing online sources:<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/10/>

**Your APA formatted reference is worth 3 points of the assignment total).**

**5. Lastly, tell us what you have learned about psychology as a discipline and professional field** from reading these articles, exploring the APA web site, reading the textbook, and seeing the videos up to this point in the course. Address the following two questions:

How does your view of psychology now differ from your view before you began this course? **(1 point)**

Why is psychology a scientific discipline? **(2 points)**

Describe how you can identify a peer-reviewed research article and know it not a mass-media article (such as the APA Monitor, newspaper, magazines) **(2 points)**

Your response to this assignment must be **ONE message** (not separate messages for each article) and will include:

1. summaries of two Monitor articles (3 points each = 6)

2. one peer-reviewed academic research journal article (9 points)

3. an APA formatted reference of the journal article (3 points)

4. your description of your learning to date about psychology (5 points) **Total points = 23**

Compose your response in your word processor and then copy/paste it to the message window in the Week 2 Discussion Forum. This will save you time and frustration from composing your total response in the Angel message window and enable you to spell check your message before posting. It will also prevent th heartache of seeing your work disappear mysteriously when the system malfunctions. You will lose points for poorly worded or spelled messages. Avoid duplicating articles others have already summarized. If you truly follow your interests and look at several issues, this will not be a problem because there are so many articles to choose from. Post all components of the assignment in **ONE message**, not a separate message for each article.

**APA Journals with FREE sample articles online:** DO NOT PAY for an article. (these are peer-reviewed academic research journals)

In left column of the APA Journals homepage at<http://www.apa.org/journals/> select "by title" in the left frame. You will see a list of peer-reviewed academic research journals published by the APA. The "free sample" articles are listed at the bottom of the journal's home page in an area titled "Selected Articles". Summarize ONE article from ONE of these journals and end it with an APA formatted reference. You must use a full article for this assignment, not a brief note in the journal or abstract. Full articles are several pages long with a lengthy list of references at the end. Some of the journals on the web page have sample articles.

Journals with sample articles available are:

American Journal of Orthopsychiatry

American Psychologist

Behavioral Neuroscience

Developmental Psychology

Health Psychology

Journal of Abnormal Psychology

Journal of Applied Psychology

Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology

Journal of Counseling Psychology

Journal of Experimental Psychology: Applied

Journal of Family Psychology

Journal of Occupational Health Psychology

Journal of Personality and Social Psychology

Prevention & Treatment (an cyber-journal)

Psychology and Aging

Psychology Bulletin

Psychology of Addictive Behaviors

**Monitor on Psychology** monthly news magazine

Summarize two articles the Monitor, one from each of two different issues. I have listed some topics from previous years' issues to provide a sample of the field. You may explore the most recent months on your own by clicking on the month and year link on the Monitor web page. Our textbook includes material relevant to many of these topics. You can explore the most recent issues, but for the earlier ones this subject listing may be helpful.

January 2011

Stress and work

Rotating shift work causes sleep, health, and accident problems

Babies are smarter than we think

Effects on you of telling stories about yourself

Hypnosis effective for pain but not smoking cessation

The coming DSM V manual for classifying psychological disorders

December 2010

Religion and psychology

Interview with Brian Baird, Ph.D. clinical psychologist from Tacoma who served in the U.S. House of Representatives for 12 years.

Morale in the workplace and its effects on employee health

Virtual violence (violent video games) impacts on behavior

Parenting programs to reduce use of harsh discipline

Pioneer woman – Native American clinical psychologist working on a reservation

November 2010

Impacts of veterans of military service on the field of psychology

Racoons as research subjects in intelligence

Effects of culture on the brain’s development

Psychologist at Microsoft working on screen text.

Psychology and astronomy

Psychologist working with endangered wolf species

Balancing your online world with your offline world

Protecting ourselves from cognitive decline (dememta, Alzheimers)

Moral decision-making and neuroscience

Life coaching

October 2010

Does marriage make us happy?

Psychology as a core scientific discipline (STEM)

Muslim religious values and being an American

4 brief articles about caregivers and psychology

September 2010

The recession’s toll on children’s health

Understanding the animal mind

One psychologist’s work with poor children

Researching pleasure

Psychological Impacts of the Gulf Oil Spill

Psychological Impacts of Arizona’s new immigration law.

July- August 2010

Cancer care and psychology

Why are girls and boys different in math skills?

Ethical dilemmas on FaceBook and Google

June 2010

Legalizing marijuana and psychology’s input on the issue

Exercise and cognitive skills

Obesity interventions with children

April 2010

More successful kids

Special Ed

Psychologists in Haiti after the earthquake

Fathers and parenting

Sports psychology and coaching

March 2010

Stroke survivors

Analyzing adolescence

Animals using tools

Anorexia

February 2010

Art and visual tricks

First female psychologist researching sex differences

A psychologist in Baghdad

January 2010

Psychology in health care

December 2009

Homeless mentally ill

Psychologist in the U.S. Marshall’s Service

Psychologist with troops before deployment

The Army and psychological well-being of troops

November 2009

The psychology of becoming a terrorist

Zoos and psychology

October 2009

Climate change and psychology’s role

Resilient kids and learning in school

September 2009

Women soldiers, sexual trauma, and PTSD

Children’s decreasing play time

Evolution and moral behavior

Suicide prevention on campus

Virtual therapy for PTSD

July-August 2009

Did the recession changes family economic behavior permanently?

June 2009

Stigma of psychological disorder in the military

Stigma of psychological disorder in civilian life

Treating tobacco dependence

Revenge and the people who seek it

May 2009

Music’s effect on the brain

The evolution of human goodness and positive emotions

Using Avatars and Second Life to engage students in psychology

April 2009

Treating eating disorders

Race relations after Barak Obama became president

Effects of social rejection and ostracism

March 2009

New technologies in brain imaging

Nazi responses to inkblot tests

Assessing cognitive abilities in older adults

Promoting honest communication about diversity on college campuses

New treatment approaches for alcohol and drug abuse

February 2009

Distracted driving

Subtle racism indicators

Early environmental influences on infant brain development

Promoting psychological health in the military

January 2009

Economic recession effects on psychology and psychologists

December 2008

Sleep and cognitive-behavioral therapy

Economic stress and women

Action teaching

Blogging psychology faculty

Psychology's study of religion

November 2008

Obesity

Psychologist and interrogation of prisoners

Cultural differences in family memories

Psychology and quitting smoking

October 2008

How psychology helps in everyday life

The science of sustainability and psychology

Time and psychology

One treatment for anxiety and mood disorders

September 2008

Pregnancy and the brain

Downsizing companies with the help of psychologists

July/August 2008

Sport psychology

Why Americans spend more than they earn

Dogs and humans

June 2008

Why people vote

Misusing science to serve ideology

May 2008

Anti-personal violence summit conference

Effectiveness of college education

Enhancing worker well-being

April 2008

Growth careers in Psychology

Caffeine effects

Katrina’s lingering effects

Mental health needs in the military

January 2008

Treatments for Post-traumatic stress disorder

Insomnia

How we learn to lie

Community colleges and psychology

December 2007

Humanitarian work by psychologists

Psychology’s role in energy use reduction

Happiness

Using eastern cultural psychotherapy techniques

November 2007

Children & the Internet

APA’s position on psychologists and torture

September 2007

Psychology & the armed forces

August/July 2007

Women leaders

June 2007

Jurors and psychology

Virginia Tech shooting tragedy

Child Custody disputes

April 2007

American’s toxic obsession with work & wealth

Gender differences in angry faces

Sexualization of young girls in American culture

March 2007

Computers and infant learning

Navigation & psychology

Discontinuing use of psychotropic meds

February 2007

Romantic love and the brain

Suicide in Native American communities

January 2007

Cardiovascular health & psychology

Phantom limb pain

Making poor investment decisions